

Palmer. Oct 26. 47

Dear Slave.

I don't know when I wrote you last, so much has occurred to torment and distract me since. Your letter of May 3. lies before me, but one or two I think came to hand of later date. On the last page you draw a very legible sketch of the locale of town and Chapel, house and all & I understand your habitat by it pretty thoroly. But your telegraph upon the hill must tell of many a vessel's arrival before that of the one in which I arrive. You have done what I cannot do. If persecution drove me into exile I should pine to return and be consumed by the fire that would consume others. I never knew my weakness until the present and have no confidence in any strength but Christ's, feeling as a child feels in the water while learning to swim, that although the father's arm is underneath and fully equal to support, there is no telling how soon it may be withdrawn in the process of instruction, and then - the bratt goes and comes quick. Be satisfied while you stay there with my loving & prayer for you

at a distance. My home is just now in Vine Street  
and my occupation - waiting. I preached here for  
Dr. Helm yesterday on the miracle of feeding 4000  
and on providence, but have nothing in view - but  
making what diligent use I can of a small library  
of best books which I have just been purchasing with  
borrowed money. Boston is lost to me. My friends  
in Milton write that the election was in my favor  
but some deaf persons objected to the weakness of  
my voice. Dr. Codman could not wait and chose  
a colleague and so my opening there is closed.

Dr. Cuyler desires me to go to work and gather  
a congregation and build a Church in Spring Gar-  
den, about 10<sup>th</sup> and Girard Avenue, for the City  
has greatly extended itself in that quarter. I  
am becoming more calm and recovering health  
and spirits as the winter approaches, but I  
dread it unusually. Your kind expressions touch  
me sensibly. I wish sometimes that you had  
me indeed under lock and key to bid me to  
talk & walk with you on the hills of your

adopted home. But angels stand better watch  
and ward around the sons of God than they could  
over each other, and much as we might enjoy  
our walks and talks, I would be more likely  
to disturb your thoughts, than you to compose  
mine. I should be loth indeed to be within  
influencing reach of you at present or soon  
commonly. I do not wonder that my letters sur-  
prise you for I write to you as I become visible  
to myself and I strike myself with surprise  
whenever I reflect. A dark body receives and  
consumes light, but a bright body reflects it.  
It is not satisfactory to receive witted thoughts  
as accidentals and irresponsibles when the  
general habitudes are good. I have very few witted  
thoughts - My spirit is daily becoming more  
pure in the common sense of the word. But  
opinions, general principles, general aims  
and ends, as are of habitual selfseeking, de-  
sires that plain are foreign from the "it is  
my meat & drink to do thy will" of Christ

— These make up the diamonds that is self felt and  
wh. do self reprobation sink deep or strikes hard  
enough to reach. To use the ministry for ambition —  
to preach to win for family pleasures — to let  
friends persuade us better and better — to  
cherish that which is the secret energy and life  
of all these, and that while professing devotedness  
and selfrenunciation — what language  
can describe it, what heart but God's can  
brave it enough. You comfort me with the  
need be of a slow sanctification. In theory  
that is amply satisfactory. In the series of  
ones practical thought, it is of no avail, for  
one longs for perfection and loves imper-  
fection at the same moment. No there is no  
cure. Wretched is the man that can hope and  
guiltily wait for salvation. Cursed is the man  
that can do it with a satisfied heart & folded  
hands.

What do you mean exactly by saying that when  
the rocks of grief are cut down you can see the  
roots of grasses 20 feet down in the sock itself? You mean